

Signal activities and missions and in tactics and combined arms operations.

After returning to the Signal Regiment, branch-detailed officers must attend the Signal Branch Qualification Course and obtain one year of experience in an operational Signal assignment before being considered branch-qualified as a lieutenant. After completing SBQC, the Army develops detailed officers in the same manner as their non-detailed counterparts.

Most Signal captains return to Fort Gordon for the branch-training phase of the Signal Captains Career Course. After completing the branch-training phase, officers go to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., for the SCCC's staff-process phase. For branch qualification, a Signal captain must successfully complete both branch training and serve at least 12 months as a company, detachment or rear detachment commander.

According to its needs, the Army will assign branch-qualified captains to jobs such as branch/functional area generalist positions (U.S. Army Recruiting Command staff, Reserve Officers' Training Corps instructor or Active Component/Reserve Component duty); functional area positions; and advanced civil schooling (based on branch, FA or overall Army requirements).

Captains should continue to gain an in-depth understanding of combined arms operations and become proficient in both Signal branch and common core tasks. These tasks provide the knowledge foundation required to effectively serve in the branch as a leader at company and battalion level in all aspects of Signal operations and in leading Signal soldiers. Captains gain a working knowledge of command principles; battalion-level staff operations and combined arms; and Signal operations at battalion to brigade levels.

Most captains undergo FA designation between their fifth and sixth years of service. The formal designation of FA is based upon the Army's needs, the officer's preference, his or her military experience and his or her civilian schooling.



CPT Stephanie Allen, right, and 1LT Glenn Kim, both of 93d Signal Brigade, brief their deputy brigade commander, LTC Janet Zimmerman, on communications' status in a line-of-sight radio van.

All promotable captains will undergo a career field designation board upon selection for major. This board of senior officers will decide in which career field each officer is best suited to serve. Signal majors may seek assignment into one of the four career fields under the Officer Professional Management System: operations, institutional support, information operations and operational support. After promotion to major, officers will develop in and compete for promotion only within their designated career field.

To be branch qualified and competitive for lieutenant colonel and battalion command, all majors must complete Command and General Staff Officer College and successfully serve in one or more of the following: brigade/group/Regimental Signal officer (S-6); battalion executive officer; battalion or brigade operations officer (S-3); major-level command; assistant division Signal officer; or deputy G-6 (deputy division Signal officer).

Officers can expect to spend up to three years on station and should strive to serve 18 months in one or more of the critical branch-qualifying positions. Twelve months' aggregate time is considered the minimum for major-level branch qualification.

Critical Signal branch-qualifying assignments for lieutenant colonels include battalion command; brigade S-3/deputy commander; or division G-6/deputy corps G-6. Typical developmental assignments include battalion command; Signal brigade S-3/deputy commander; division G-6/deputy corps G-6; theater Signal command staff; major command/joint/multinational/Defense Department/Army staff; service Signal school staff; Reserve Component support; or Reserve Officers' Training Corps battalion command (professor of military science).

Critical Signal branch-qualifying assignments for colonels include brigade command; Training and Doctrine Command system manager; garrison command; or corps G-6.

Generalist assignments

Officers above the rank of lieutenant can expect to serve in assignments that may or may not be directly related to the Signal branch but which are important to the Army. These positions are used to fill Army requirements as well as to integrate officers into the total Army concept. Examples of such positions are inspector general; ROTC assistant professor of military science; or aide-de-camp.